

Tourism and Convention

Mission. The mission of the Tourism and Convention Fund is to support and promote tourism and convention activity in Wichita.

Overview. The Tourism and Convention Fund, funded by a six percent transient guest tax on hotel and motel rooms in Wichita, provides monies to support tourism and convention infrastructure and promotion in the city. Guest tax funds are governed by the provisions of Charter Ordinance No. 91, which include: 1) to pay any obligations, including, but not limited to, bonds, leases or contracts resulting from, or directly attributable to, the construction or use of new facilities for convention or exhibition purposes; 2) to pay any deficit incurred in the operation or maintenance of new facilities for convention or exhibition purposes; 3) to pay for convention and tourism activities which result from the annual consideration of requests for such funds by the Convention and Tourism Committee established by Section 12, Charter Ordinance No. 83, and which, upon recommendation by said committee, receives final approval by the City Council; and 4) to pay any deficit incurred in the operation or maintenance of Century II; to establish a building fund for future facilities; to pay for extraordinary facility repairs or replacement; and to fund attractions deemed to have advantage or interest to the City of Wichita.

Finance and Operations. The Tourism and Convention Fund's scope of financing and operations is well defined and prioritized. Obligations connected to debt service, required improvements, and operations at Century II and the Expo Hall Convention Center require the major portion

of the fund's capacity. Funds are also allocated to general tourism and convention promotion financing, primarily via the Wichita Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Delegate agencies other than the Convention and Visitor's Bureau receive less than four percent of the budget.



The Hotel at Old Town, opened in March, 1999, is centrally located in the historic Old Town entertainment district.

Recent capital investments in convention facilities in the East Bank and Old Town areas have added new debt to the fund's annual expenditure commitments. Debt commitments on a conference center parking facility and the new Century II and Expo Hall energy complex began in 1998. Obligations associated with the Hotel at Old Town parking facility and the Guild Plaza Hotel will be due starting in 2000. More significantly, the City's annual debt service commitment to the East Bank conference center begins in 2000. This obligation escalates to over \$1.2 million in 2005 and will have a significant impact on the amount of funding available for other commitments.

Tourism and Convention Fund Budget Summary

	1998 Actual	1999 Adopted	1999 Revised	2000 Adopted	2001 Approved
Tourism and Convention Revenue	4,393,267	4,264,010	4,419,040	4,633,210	4,679,800
Budgeted Expenditures:					
Century II/Expo Hall	2,094,332	1,922,650	2,360,570	1,895,940	1,901,300
Convention & Visitor's Bureau/promotion	1,158,471	1,264,180	1,523,640	1,538,880	1,554,270
Convention facilities	583,750	780,520	780,520	974,670	1,013,500
Delegate agencies	173,217	182,220	182,220	175,220	175,220
Miscellaneous	53,130	53,130	53,130	53,130	53,130
Total Tour. & Convention Expenditures	4,062,900	4,202,700	4,900,080	4,637,840	4,697,420
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	330,367	61,310	(481,040)	(4,630)	(17,620)
Tourism & Convention Fund Balance	535,232	95,355	54,192	49,562	31,942